(b) how many applications they have received for each of these posts;

(c) how many candidates appeared for competitive examinations or came for interviews in each of these cases; and

(d) what number was finally selected in each case?

A.—(a) to (d) Government have no information in the matter. The hon. Member is requested to await the publication of the reports of the Madras Services Commission for 1930–31 and 1931–32.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether the Government cannot call for the information?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I am unable to call for a report in anticipation of a general report which will be received in due course, as it will cause considerable trouble to save a small delay."

Cinchona

Quinine output by the departmental plantations.

11-45 a.m. * 420 Q.—Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the quinine output from the bark obtained from the departmental plantations during the years 1928, 1929 and 1930; and what is the cost per lb. and how the price compares with the imported quinine; and

(b) what is the quantity of bark purchased from others during the years 1928, 1929 and 1930 and how the quinine contents compared with the departmental bark?

A.—(a) The quinine output from the plantations is as follows:—

	LB.
1928–29	8,676
1929–30	5,770
1930–31	8,005

The cost per pound is Rs. 15 including overhead charges. The cost of imported quinine is Rs. 18 per pound. The Government quinine is sold at the same rate as that of imported quinine.

(b) The quantity of bark purchased during the past three years, is as follows:—

	LB.
1928–29	268,421
1929–30	325,220
1930–31	423,368

Most of this bark comes from high grade ledger bark grown on a private plantation in the Anamalais now converted into a tea estate. The average quinine content is 6 per cent against the average content of Nilgiris plantation bark of 4 per cent.

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Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"In view of the large output of cinchona bark and better quinine contents of the bark obtained in the Anamalais, does not the Government think it advisable to encourage private agencies to grow cinchona?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The private agencies are now turning to tea cultivation."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"If private agencies are given a higher rate of price, I am sure private agencies will come forward to take up cinchona plantation?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I thank the hon. Member for his information."

Electricity

Charges for electricity supplied by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., to the Government.

* 421 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount paid by the Madras Government to the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., for the energy supplied by them to the Government buildings during the last year;

(*b*) the rate charged by the company per unit;

(*c*) the reasons why the Government have agreed to a higher rate than that obtaining in Bombay, Calcutta or Rangoon;

(*d*) whether the question of the reduction in the rate charged for electricity supplied by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., was ever considered and, if so, when and with what results;

(*e*) the name and description of meters that are used for calculating the current consumed and their respective actual costs and the charge levied per month for meters supplied by the Corporation; and

(*f*) whether the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., furnishes every year to the Government of Madras its annual report on the working of the Company?

A.—(*a*) The exact amount paid by the Madras Government has not been ascertained but Rs. 4,07,776–12–6 was paid for energy supplied to all Government buildings including those belonging to the Government of India.

(*b*) 3·5 annas.

(*c*) The Government have no information as to the rates now charged at Calcutta, Bombay or Rangoon, but at the time the present rate (which was a reduction on the old rate) was agreed to the latest information available was that Calcutta paid 1·9 annas, Bombay 3·06 annas and Rangoon 3·5 annas per unit. The variation of rate depends upon a variety of conditions.